

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Indian Defence Minister's visit to Japan

† 2093. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Minister of the country during his visit to Japan had made a halt at London and talked to intermediary of LTTE which is banned by India;

(b) if so, the duration of his halt in London and the issues discussed with the intermediary during this period and whether Government had granted permission for such talks; and

(c) the outcome of talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Security Related issues on the transport of Gas pipeline from Iran

2094. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out broad outlines on energy, security and other related issues on the gas transport through, pipeline from Iran before discussions with Iran authorities during the proposed talks with them in July, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government is examining all aspects relating to supply of Iranian gas to India including the transmission of gas through a pipeline. The first meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Committee constituted for this purpose is scheduled to take place later this month.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.